

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 095651
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 ACDA-12 SS-15 PM-05 SSO-00
NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03
DODE-00 /062 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PPC:LREINAUDI
APPROVED BY ARA:JABUSHNELL
ARA/AND:MBARNEBEY
ARA/RPP:CFINAN
S/P:SCOHEN
ACDA:LWATSON
T:LBROWN
PM:PCLAPP

-----001526 140033Z /15
O 132341Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 095651

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MARR, VE

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON ARMS RESTRAINT

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 92467, (B) CARACAS 3421

1. MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR FAST PRELIMINARY COMMENTS TO
REF. A, AND WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU OUR FURTHER THOUGHTS
ON TIMING AND LEVEL OF DELEGATION.

2. TIMING. ACCEPTING THAT A SATISFACTORY CONSULTATION
IS IMPOSSIBLE NEXT WEEK, WE FIND THAT POINTS 2A AND 2B
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REF B REINFORCE OUR OWN DESIRE TO ESTABLISH CONTACT
QUICKLY. NO PM OFFICERS WILL BE AVAILABLE MAY 1-10
BECAUSE OF EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS, BUT WE NOW CONSIDER
ANY APRIL DATES PREFERABLE TO PUTTING OFF THE
CONSULTATION UNTIL MID-MAY AS WE HAD EARLIER SUGGESTED.
IF ALL APRIL DATES ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION, WE WOULD
OF COURSE ACCEPT MID-MAY DATES.

3. DELEGATION. YOUR INDICATION THAT THE INITIAL CONSULTATION WOULD HAVE TO BE AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL LEADS US TO CLARIFY THE AVAILABLE OPTIONS ON POSSIBLE INTERLOCUTORS AT OUR END. DEPENDING ON SIZE, A DELEGATION COULD INCLUDE

IN ADDITION TO A MILITARY MEMBER, REPRESENTATIVES FROM ARA, PM, SP AND ACDA. THOUGH WE CONSIDER THE CONSULTATIONS OF SUFFICIENT LONG-TERM IMPORTANCE TO BE HEADED BY AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY, NEITHER TODMAN NOR GELB ARE AVAILABLE, SO THAT IN PRACTICE A DEPUTY WOULD BE THE HIGHEST RANKING OFFICIAL. IN ADDITION, TO ENSURE CONTINUITY, WE PREFER THE DELEGATION TO BE HEADED BY ARA. POSSIBLE CANDIDATES ARE THUS DEPUTIES BUSHNELL OR MCNEIL, OR PPC DIRECTOR EINAUDI.

4. FINALLY, YOUR POINT ON NOT KIDDING OURSELVES ABOUT MAKING THIS APPEAR A TOTALLY VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE IS QUITE RIGHT. ALL WE MEANT WAS (A) THE LESS HOOPLA THE BETTER AS WE EMBARK ON A SENSITIVE AND UNCERTAIN VENTURE, AND (B) TO THE EXTENT THAT A DELEGATION VISIT BECOMES KNOWN, IT SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A PURELY AMERICAN INITIATIVE, BUT, AS YOU SUGGEST, AS CONSULTATIONS IN WHICH
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THE VENEZUELAN INTEREST IS AS GREAT AS OURS.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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